

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 005856
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 ACDA-12 /037 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:JTYLER
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
OASD (ISA): GEN BOWMAN
J-5, JOINT STAFF: COL PARRISH
OASD (PA&E): MR. SCHNEIDER
ADV TO SEC&DEPSECDEF:RKOMER
EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE

-----102914 100423Z /66

R 100146Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005856

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: GENERAL COMMENTS ON LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM;
STATUS OF READINESS TASK FORCE WORK

1. THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MESSAGES WHICH
GIVE US VIEWS ON THE PROGRESS OF NATO TASK FORCES,
TOGETHER WITH AN INDICATION OF ADDITIONAL INPUTS TO
THEIR EFFORTS WHICH ARE BEING PREPARED BY US TASK FORCES.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL NATO TASK FORCES HAVE
ADOPTED MID-JANUARY DATES FOR PRODUCING DRAFT REPORTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 005856

HOWEVER, THE CONCERN HERE IS THAT THE DRAFT REPORTS
MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS IN
THE SHORT TIME REMAINING. THEREFORE, IN MOST CASES
TASK FORCES WILL NEED TO USE EFFECTIVELY THE TIME BETWEEN
NOW AND 1 MARCH TO COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF KEY PROGRAMS
FOR EWG CONSIDERATION. OUR OBJECTIVE IS SUBMISSION
TO EWG BY 1 MARCH OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE

BOTH PROGRAMMATIC AND SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR LEVELS. THE MISSION SHOULD INFORMALLY ADVISE APPROPRIATE NATO AUTHORITIES OF THIS VIEW AS APPROPRIATE.

,
3. AS REGARDS THE READINESS TASK FORCE'S WORK, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE TWO MAIN ACTION AREAS OF ANTI-ARMOR AND AIR-TO-SURFACE MUNITIONS BE DEVELOPED INTO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS. IN EACH OF THESE AREAS THE TASK FORCE SHOULD DEVELOP OUTLINE PROGRAMS FOR TWO FAMILIES -- ONE FOR THE NEAR AND MID-TERM PERIOD, AND THE OTHER A FAMILY OF NOTIONAL WEAPONS FOR THE LONG-TERM (POST-1983). THESE PROGRAMS SHOULD INCLUDE PROCUREMENT QUANTITIES BY COUNTRY AND COSTS (BEST ESTIMATES). WE KNOW THAT DATA ON ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS IS NOT YET COMPLETE AND THAT THE CNAD HAS NOT YET PRODUCED THE SPECIFIC FAMILY OF AIR-TO SURFACE WEAPONS FOR THE FUTURE. BUT WE BELIEVE THE TASK FORCE SHOULD MOVE AHEAD WITH AT LEAST A "BEST ESTIMATE" APPROACH. WE WILL BE DOING A SIMILAR EXERCISE HERE TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT FOR COMPARISON WITH THE PROGRAMS WORKED OUT BY THE NATO TASK FORCES. WE HOPE TO HAVE THESE INPUTS TO YOU BY 23 JANUARY. WE ALSO HAVE TWO OTHER CONCERNS ON THE WORK OF THE READINESS TASK FORCE:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 005856

A) WE ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE TASK FORCE IS DOING IN THE AREA OF IMPROVING POSITIONING OF FORCES AND AMMUNITION. HOW LONG-TERM IS IT?

B) THE READINESS TASK FORCE IS DOING USEFUL WORK IN THE OTHER MAIN ACTION AREAS, ALTHOUGH MOST ARE IN PROCEDURAL OR POLICY AREAS. WE MUST CRITIQUE THIS WORK AND SEEK IMPROVEMENTS OR ADDITIONS WHERE NECESSARY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TASK FORCE IN ITS WORK ON IMPROVING OPERATIONAL READINESS TESTING SEEMS TO SET ITS SIGHTS TOO LOW. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD REFLECT WHAT SHAPE FEELS IS NEEDED, NOT JUST WHAT COUNTRIES HAVE INDICATED AT STAFF LEVEL THEY MIGHT BUY. WE ARE ALSO EAGER TO SEE WHAT THE TASK FORCE IS PROPOSING ON INCREASED COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL FORCES TO NATO AND PEACETIME ASSIGNMENT OF OPCON. RELUCTANCE OF COUNTRIES TO AGREE TO PEACETIME ASSIGNMENT OF OPERATIONAL COMMAND/CONTROL MIGHT BE LESSENED IF THE TASK FORCE CAN CLARIFY THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTS OF SUCH ASSIGNMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EFFECTS MIGHT BE PRIMARILY AT THE CORPS LEVEL AND LIMITED TO MILITARY OPERATIONS, E.G., TESTS AND EXERCISES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. WE WOULD LIKE
TO SEE ALL DRAFT TASK FORCE REPORTS SOONEST IN ORDER TO
ASSIST IN MAKING FINAL INPUTS STRONGEST POSSIBLE.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE005856
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTYLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0160
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780180/aaaacppk.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79a8eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3800486
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL COMMENTS ON LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM; STATUS OF READINESS TASK FORCE WORK
TAGS: MOPS
To: USNATO SACLANT NORFOLK VA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79a8eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014